

Additions to the U.S. National Museum.—From the report of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the year ending June 30th, 1900, we extract the following paragraph:—

“The Division of Birds has received the Goodfellow Collection of Humming-birds, comprising about 1200 specimens; 300 specimens of the birds of the United States of Columbia, from Mr. Outram Bangs; 500 specimens of Hawaiian birds from Mr. H. W. Henshaw; a specimen of the Cuban Macaw (*Ara tricolor*), now believed to be extinct, from Maj. W. A. Glassford, U.S.A.; and a skeleton of the rare Harris’s Cormorant, from Leland-Stanford-Junior University.”

XLIX.—*Obituary.*

The Abbé ARMAND DAVID, Mr. LIONEL WIGLESWORTH,
and Mr. WILLIAM DOHERTY.

ORNITHOLOGY has sustained a severe loss in the person of the Abbé ARMAND DAVID, the indefatigable explorer of parts of the mysterious interior of China now practically closed to the scientific traveller, and the discoverer of many new facts in Botany and Geology as well as in Zoology.

Born at Espalette in the Department of the Basses Pyrénées on the 7th of September, 1826, and entered at St. Lazare in 1848, he devoted his untiring energies, after a preliminary training of ten years’ educational work at the College of Savone in Italy, to the service of the Lazarist Missionary establishments in China.

In 1862 the Abbé was placed in charge of a French school in Peking, and at once began to give unmistakable proofs of his great interest in science by the valuable collections that he transmitted to the National Museum of his native country, with the full approval of his ecclesiastical superiors. At the same time he was amassing a collection for his scholastic establishment, and had begun to correspond with and profit

by the advice of some of the best scientific men of the time.

A trip to South Mongolia and the great mountain chain of Si-chan having afforded a measure of preliminary training, Père David undertook in 1864 an important expedition to Jéhol, north of Peking, near the remains of the great Mongolian forest, under the guidance of a Christianized Lama named Sambdatchiamba, who had thirty years previously guided MM. Hue and Gabet to Lhassa. In ten months so many treasures were secured and forwarded to Paris, that the authorities there determined to commission the missionary officially, and subsidised him to explore the less-known portions of the Celestial Empire. As a consequence, he undertook a second great expedition in 1866, to the districts lying within twenty days' journey westward from Peking, and subsequently a third in 1868-70 from Shanghai by the Blue River to Kiang-si, Se-chuan, and Moupin in the direction of Koko-Nor.

During these years the health of the fearless explorer had suffered so severely that he was recalled to France, where in 1871 his collections were publicly exhibited. On his return to China in 1872, Père David carried out a fourth expedition to Chensi and the yellow-earth region of the Hoang-ho basin, though obliged to abandon his projected visit to the great mountains of Tsing-Ling by a Mahomedan rebellion, and another to Fokien by his failing health.

Prostrated by fever, the Abbé was obliged in 1874 to return once more to France, where fortunately his health was partially restored, and he lived for twenty-five years in the house of St. Vincent de Paul, busied with his collections. He died on November 10th, 1900.

Never more happy than when assisting or working for the good of others, Père David was as modest and unassuming as he was enthusiastic and indomitable; while the rules of his order doubtless precluded him to some extent from accepting the full honours due to his scientific attainments. He was, however, a Laureate of the Society of

Geography, and a Correspondent of the Institute of France and of the Academy of Sciences.

Of his works by far the most important to ornithologists is the 'Birds of China,' undertaken in collaboration with M. E. Oustalet ; but M. A. Milne-Edwards's 'Recherches sur les Mammifères' related almost entirely to specimens forwarded by Père David, and other new species were described in London and in Berlin. Sixty-three mammals and sixty-five birds obtained by him have been declared to be new to science. In 1889 he presented to the first Reunion of the International Scientific Congress of Catholics a memoir on the Chinese fauna. His reptiles, batrachians, fishes, insects, and plants were described by various authorities ; but it seems that birds were the Abbé's chief delight, and all readers of 'The Ibis' may well join in deploring the great loss that the world of science has sustained.

The following is a list of the titles of Père David's principal works and memoirs relating to Birds :—

1. Note sur les Espèces nouvelles d'Oiseaux recueillis par M. l'Abbé Armand David dans les montagnes du Thibet Chinois. Nouv. Archiv. du Mus. Paris, vi. (1870) Bull. pp. 33-40.
2. [Description of *Parus pekinensis*.] Ibis, 1870, p. 154.
3. Nouvelle espèce de *Crossoptilon* (*C. carulescens*). C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, lxx. (1870) p. 538.
4. On two new Species of Birds from Moupin, Western Szechuen. Ann. & Mag. N. H. ser. 4, vii. p. 256 (1871).
5. Catalogue des Oiseaux de la Chine observés dans la partie septentrionale de l'empire (au nord du Fleuve-bleu) de 1862 à 1870. Nouv. Archiv. du Mus. Paris, vii. (1871) Bull. p. 3.
6. Rapport adressé à MM. les Professeurs-Administrateurs du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle. Nouv. Arch. du Mus. Paris, vii. (1871) Bull. p. 75.
7. Journal d'un Voyage dans le Centre de la Chine et dans le Thibet oriental. Nouv. Archiv. du Mus. Paris, viii. (1872) Bulletin, pp. 3-128 ; ix. (1873) pp. 15-48.
8. Note sur quelques Oiseaux de la province de Chen-Si. Ann. Sci. Nat. (Zool.) xviii. (1873) No. 5.
9. Sur quelques Oiseaux de Chine. Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris, sér. 6, xii. p. 18 (1875).

10. Journal de mon troisième Voyage d'exploration dans l'Empire Chinois. 2 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1875.
 11. Les Oiseaux de la Chine. Par l'Abbé Armand David et E. Oustalet. Text & Atlas. 8vo. Paris, 1877.
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With deep regret we have to record the death at Suva, the capital of the Fiji Islands, on the 7th of June last, of Mr. LIONEL WILLIAM WIGLESWORTH, author of the 'Aves Polynesiae' (1891) and (jointly with Dr. A. B. Meyer) of 'The Birds of Celebes' (1898). Born on the 13th of February, 1865, being the second son of the late Rev. James L. Wiglesworth, Curate of Hanslope-with-Castlethorpe in the county of Buckingham, the deceased naturalist was educated at Trinity School, Old Stratford, and from early years was an ardent observer of birds and a keen collector of their eggs, while the constant reading of Waterton's 'Wanderings' filled him with a much greater desire to know more of foreign ornithology than is commonly possessed by the ordinary birds'-nesting boy. After the death of his father, in 1882, his inclinations were fostered by an uncle and aunt, and resolving to make a serious study of Ornithology, he repaired in 1889 to Brunswick, armed with an introduction to Professor Wilhelm Blasius, and placed himself under him as a teacher. There he remained working industriously for two years, and then proceeded to Dresden as a volunteer assistant to Dr. A. B. Meyer in the Museum of the Capital. It had long been Mr. Wiglesworth's great aim to carry on ornithological investigations in some distant country, and it was a bitter disappointment to him that the offer of his services, for an almost nominal remuneration, was not accepted by the Committee for the Zoological Exploration of the Sandwich Islands, at the beginning of its operations. The opportunity of going abroad, to which he had been so long looking forward, did not occur till nearly a twelvemonth ago, and in November 1900 he left England for Australia and New Zealand, with the intention of making his way from the latter of those countries to as many of the chief groups of islands in the Pacific as he could, and of working them on his own account.

He began with the Fijis, to the authorities of which colony he was provided with recommendations from Sir Walter Buller, Dr. Selater, and others. Soon after his arrival there, and in the course of his first journey across the principal island, he had a serious attack of dysentery, from which he had barely recovered before a second completely prostrated him, and he was ordered by his medical adviser to leave the island as soon as possible for New Zealand, in the hope that the voyage would revive him. It was, however, too late for him to be removed, and he died at Suva on the 7th of June, his last letter (to a brother) containing the words "I am among friends, and quite easy."

Mr. Wigglesworth had so prepared himself for his work that he knew almost everything about Polynesian Ornithology which the study of specimens or books could teach; but, more than that, he knew how very little all that knowledge came to, and how necessary it was to add to it before so many species peculiar to this or that group of islands, whose fate is now in jeopardy, became extinct. It would be no easy matter to find anyone with such knowledge to replace him, and certainly not without a delay that would be fatal to the threatened forms—so rapidly is the process of extirpation going on. Apart, then, from the loss to his many friends both in this country and in Germany, the death of so enterprising and well-instructed an Ornithologist in his full vigour is a real loss to science.

We also much regret that we have to announce the death at Nairobi, in British East Africa, of WILLIAM DOHERTY, who was one of the best-known and successful of Collectors. We hope to be able to give a notice of his life and work in our next number.